

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-20 EB-11 INR-10 L-03 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA:AV:MSTYLES:PAW

APPROVED BY EA:RSINGERSOLL

EA/PHL:DCCUTHELL (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052761

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ETRN, EG, RP

SUBJECT: HOMECOMING FARES

REF: A. MANILA 3045

B. MANILA 3087

FROM INGERSOLL FOR AMBASSADOR

1. I SYMPATHIZE WITH THE CONCERNS YOU HAVE EXPRESSED. HOWEVER, WE IN THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT FEEL THAT THE POSSIBLE UNHAPPINESS OF MARCOS OR OTHER CONSEQUENCES WERE SUFFICIENT REASON FOR US TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT OVERLOOK THE DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS AND ORDER THE BOARD TO APPROVE THE HOMECOMING FARES. THE BOARD HAS DISAPPROVED OTHER DISCRIMINATORY FARES, AND APPROVAL OF THE PHILIPPINE HOMECOMING FARE WOULD ITSELF HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATORY.

2. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT DISAPPROVAL ONLY HURTS THE U.S. AIRLINES, THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO LEAVE TO THE CAB WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT BUT WHICH
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THIS MORNING ISSUED ITS ORDER TERMINATING THE HOMECOMING

FARE EFFECTIVE MARCH 16.

3. RE YOUR 3087 IT IS ALSO RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT U.S. UNHAPPINESS WITH THE PROPOSED HOMECOMING FARE WAS MADE KNOWN LAST SUMMER AND THAT THE GOP INTRODUCED ITS TEMPORARY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM IN APPARENT RECOGNITION OF THE RESISTANCE ENCOUNTERED BY THE FARE PROPOSAL. THE BOARD ULTIMATELY CHOSE IN DECEMBER TO COUNTENANCE THE FARE ONLY BECAUSE SOME UPWARD REVISIONS HAD BEEN MADE AND BECAUSE IT WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR ONLY SOME 10 WEEKS. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE RECORD WHICH IMPLIED THAT THE CAB WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY ON AN EXTENSION OF THE FARE BEYOND FEBRUARY 28. THEREFORE ROMULO IS INCORRECT IN SAYING IT HAD BEEN APPROVED AND PRACTICED FOR SIX MONTHS WITHOUT COMPLAINT.

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